

REMARKS

Claims 12-16 and 19 are pending in the present application, with claims 17-18 having been canceled hereby without prejudice and claim 19 being newly added.

The Action **(1)** rejected claims 12-18 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,056 (“the ‘056 patent”); **(2)** rejected claims 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,155,478 (“the ‘478 patent”) in view of 5,386,577 (“the ‘577 patent”); and **(3)** found allowable subject matter relative to at least claims 17 and 18.

Regarding item **(1)** identified above, Applicant(s) hereby submit a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321, and hence respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

With respect to items **(2)** and **(3)** above, Applicant(s) respectfully express appreciation for the finding of allowable subject matter relative to claims 17 and 18, and further respectfully submit that the present pending claims likewise are directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection relative to the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the present claims are patentable over art of record and that such claims effectively address/traverse the issues raised via the Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections pertaining to the present application are respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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